

Managing FRA NEPA ARRA-HSIPR Projects in High Capacity Corridors

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From Broad Strokes to Details

- *Planning* before NEPA Starts
 - *Corridor Users & Expectations*
- *Focusing* in the NEPA Process
 - *Alternatives & Documentation*
- *Anticipating* NEPA Issues –
 - *Coordination and substance*



Planning for HSIIPR – Before NEPA Starts

- Shared & High Capacity Corridor Users – Passenger & Freight
- NEC Infrastructure Development Plan
- WSDOT Passenger Service Planning



Planning for HSIPR – Before NEPA Starts

Sharing a Freight Railroad's Corridor

- *Freight Railroads are often the fee owner, a Win-Win is the only way*

So, 4 points to keep in mind...



Planning for HSIPR – Before NEPA Starts

Sharing a Freight Railroad Corridor

- No degradation of freight service*
- Fair compensation for use of property/assets*
- No additional liability or exposure*
- No indirect subsidies for construction, operation, or maintenance of passenger rail*



Planning for HSIPR – Before NEPA Starts

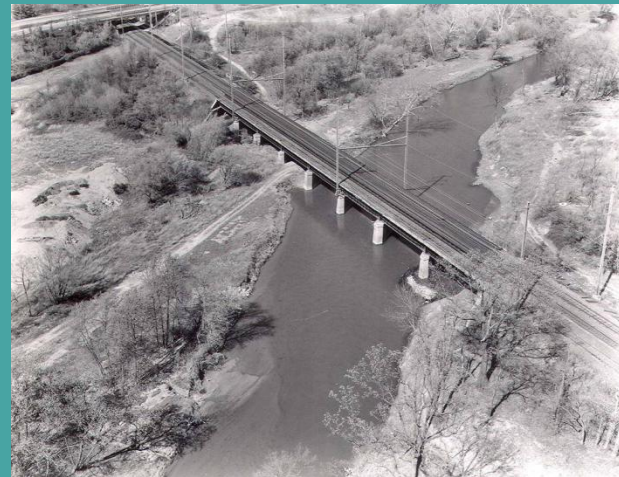
Of course, rail planning and NEPA are two sides of the same coin, but anticipating the public & regulatory face of the job...

- Avoid & Minimize




Focusing the NEPA Process – Alternatives and Documentation

- On or Off Corridor?
- Minimum Tracks in Service
- Purpose & Need in Action!
 - congestion & capacity in HSIPR



Focusing the NEPA Process – Alternatives and Documentation

- Tiered Documents – efficient in terms of time and cost; follow with project-specific EAs

 Washington State Department of Transportation

Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor


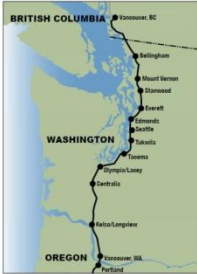
Washington State Segment - Columbia River to the Canadian Border

Program Environmental Assessment

September 2009

Prepared for:
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Prepared by:
Washington State Department of
Transportation



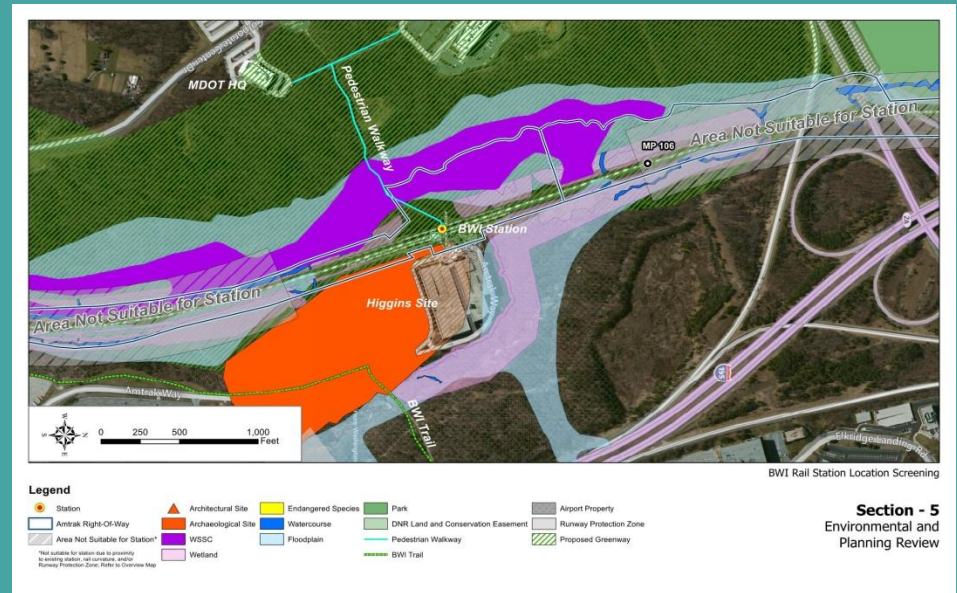
Preparing the NEPA Document Anticipating Issues and Coordination

- Project Planning & Service agreements can have a direct effect on alternatives definition
- Stay in Touch with your planners
- *Avoid & Minimize* from the beginning – and record it



Preparing the NEPA Document Anticipating Issues and Coordination

- Be Kind to your Resource Agency Partners & Listen Closely
- Tattoo the HSIPR Purpose & Need on your arm



Preparing the NEPA Document Anticipating Issues and Coordination

- Provide an easy forum for outreach
- Keep your consultants in touch with your Federal sponsor
- Work with your Federal Partner

